Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 24, Number 5 May 1999

The New Trenton Computer Festival

by Scott Vincent, President of Trenton Computer Festival Inc.

TCF-99
Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2
New Jersey Convention Center
Raritan Center, Edison NJ
1800-631-0062
www.tcf99.com and ***www.tcf-nj.org***
New! Order tickets in advance at ACGNJ Meetings. See page 11.

www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

As "Old Man Winter" (he was pretty young this year…) fades away and signs of Spring pop up here and there, it's time once again to plan for another weekend in Ewing…ah, no that's Hamilton Township… nope, that's not it either. Where is it now? You know what I'm talking about. The granddaddy of ***all*** computer shows. Its name starts with a city name…like Trenton. But it has never been in Trenton…it was originally held at Trenton State College…but there is no Trenton State College — now it's The College of New Jersey. That's in Mercer County. But I heard that the Trenton Computer Festival (ah, that's the name) isn't even going to be in Mercer County anymore. Edison!! That's where the show is going — Edison, New Jersey. That's in Middlesex County. Isn't Edison where another computer show was held once? I vaguely remember something…oh, never mind.

That !#$%&* $% show was in Oktober if I remember correctly. The Trenton Computer Festival is always in April. Whoa!! Wait a minute. The Festival is now going to be held in May. That was never possible before because it was always held at a college and it would have interfered with the end of the year events. Sometimes it even interfered with the scheduling of things like childrens' play in the theater where one of many major computer industry luminaries usually speaks. How in the world could a thing like that ever be allowed to happen? And wasn't the !#$%&* $% show at a college too?

This year Trenton Computer Festival, originally from (near) Trenton in Mercer County, and then in Hamilton Township, also in Mercer County, will be held in a real convention hall in Edison in Middlesex County. Has everyone got that straight? The whole thing in a hall! Oh, and there's one more thing — it is being professionally promoted — planned and run by a real computer show promoter like say Ken Gordon Productions — probably the best known computer show promotion organization in the east? Precisely!

But what about all the things that make TCF ("***The*** Computer Show") unlike any other computer show? The Flea Market? It's here. Educational talks and forums? Definitely!! Keynote speaker? Lined up and ready to go. Ahhhhhh! A banquet? Yes, there will be a gathering for dinner on Saturday night, and there will be a speaker. Slightly different format than in the past though. How about the way TCF always seemed to have the lowest prices?

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it? If you include graphics, they should be separate files.

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are welcome. Commercial ads are 15 cents per word, $5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) $150, two-thirds page (4½ x 10) $115, half-page $85, one-third $57, quarter $50, eighth $30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a their newsletters to Editor at the ACGNJ address above. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be directed to David Lampe (*david.lampe@entex.com*) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

Membership, including subscription: 1 year $25, 2 years $40, 3 years $55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year $20, 3 years $45. Family of member, without subscription, $10 per year. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: The ACGNJ News is produced using Corel Ventura 5. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Ariel (TT) for headlines.

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The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

Item: The Star-Ledger, March 24: "No Web of Intrigue of Elderly." This piece starts with a note about a River Vale teacher and student who have worked out a deal where the student helps the teacher get connected to the Net and produce some home-made Christmas cards in exchange for lessons in parallel parking from the teacher. The story goes on to tell of a couple of towns where some of the local high school students maintain telephone computer help lines.

Item: The New York Times *Cybertimes*, March 27: "Utah Government to Go Online." This piece by Rebecca Raney reports that "In a move aimed at boosting Utah's reputation as a high-tech center, the Governor signed the 'Digital State Act,' which directs all state agencies to provide access to their services online within three years." After all, it was the place where Word Perfect grew up.

Item: New York Times on the Web, Technology Section, March 28: "New Fast-Spreading Virus Takes Internet by Storm." Melissa, a new virus, has swamped many corporate e-mail users, including Microsoft and Intel. The form is an e-mail message with a Word document attached. The document contains a macro that opens your Outlook e-mail address book and sends the same message and attachment to the first 50 entries in your address book. If some of these are group addresses (frequently they are), the mailing may be distributed to a thousand or more others. The multiplication is triggered by reading the document with MS Word, which may be activated in many mail programs by simply clicking on the document's icon in the mail message. Microsoft itself was hit so badly by the virus that they shut down their e-mail servers. You can pick up protection from all the principal anti-virus folks: Symantec, Network Associates, etc.

Item: New York Times *Cybertimes*, March 31. "Students Help With Taxes Online." by Pamela Mendels. "A novel project in Virginia is enlisting high school students to help people file income tax returns online." Similar to the story above, this has the added twist of getting the IRS, which has an interest in getting returns filed electronically, involved in the effort.

Item: Star-Ledger, April 2: "Libraries to put own search engine online." It's more of a distributed catalogue of (most) state public libraries. Remember Gail Rosenberg? Her successful effort to do the same for the four county complex serving most of us wasn't even mentioned. The need of politicians to receive credit for successes of innovators is a bit hard to take. In any case, we welcome them aboard, even if they are a bit late and have found a way to spend lots of our money — in this case with Ameritech Library Services of Tucson, AZ. (What's the Illinois Mafia doing in Arizona?) The project includes another program for the State to fund access to periodical databases for many smaller local libraries. This program has already been implemented at 43 of the state's public and private colleges, giving them access to a large collection of scholarly journals.

Item: The Star-Ledger, April 8: "Reports take a byte out of online colleges." Kelly Heyboer reports on two studies by the College Board and the Institute for Higher Education warning about the dubious quality of online college courses. While there isn't enough hard info in the article to help one form an opinion, it at least introduces us to some of the players. On the other side of the argument are people like Starr Roxanne Hiltz of NJIT who co-authored a book on the rise of the virtual classroom and Jeanne Oswald, member of the New Jersey Virtual University design team. Check out *www.njvu.org,* the home site of this coalition of some 800 online courses offered by over forty New Jersey schools.

Item: The Star-Ledger, April 10: "Rutgers launches huge Internet project." Apparently, our state university suffers from being an agglomeration of of smaller institutions, which gives it a very fractured physical plant. As a result, it has proven a very expensive proposition to get the whole mess wired together. The project is called RUNet 2000, and seeks to "give students faster and easier access to the Internet and provide university-wide cable television services in residence halls, classrooms and libraries." You can be sure it will cost a pretty penny, since they are hiring Bell Atlantic to do the wiring.

Item: New York Times *Cybertimes,* April 10: "Obstacle Remains on Internet Addresses." First the U.S. government ran the domain name registration service, then Network Solutions, Inc., a private company, was set up to handle the job. Then others wanted to get into the act, from greedy wannabees to foreign governments. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, (ICANN), a non-profit corporation, was set up to try to get government out of the donnybrook. Network Solutions (NSI) is now a Fortune 500 company. A couple of weeks ago, NSI turned off public access to its registration database at *www.internic.com.* Did they have the right? There's been all kinds of squabbling as ICANN gets ready to select five companies which will be allowed to offer registration services. Who will own ".com", etc.?

Item: New York Times *Cybertimes,* April 13: "IBM Joins RealNetworks on Format for Net Music." We've reported on the Rio/MP3 fuss before. Now, "Alarmed that formats like MP3 could threaten profits of the $40-billion-a-year industry, music companies have started a Secure Digital Music Initiative to develop a secure format." And IBM is getting into the act. (There's a further report in the April 16 issue: "Sony and IBM in Alliance on Internet Music.")

Investing

Last month I continued my words of caution about the values of Internet hot stocks, the e-fads, and the dangers of fraud. There was an interesting case this past week. An employee

continued

of PairGain Technologies apparently made a copy of the news ticker on Bloomberg's Web site. He then created a false news story about a PairGain merger. Then he went to Yahoo!'s financial news portal and posted a comment on one of the bulletin boards there with a hot link to his phony Web page. As a result of these shenanigans, the PairGain stock went up over 30% until the forgery was revealed by Bloomberg and PairGain. The alleged perpetrator doesn't seem to have engaged in any market play himself, so the whole affair may have been just a lark, but he will probably be hung out to dry! (Anyone want to buy a genuine Parker Pen?) What happened to the good old days when a (greedy) fool and his money were soon parted.

On the nightly ZDTV news, mention was made of a stock valuation service which was claiming a better definition of equity values which would more reasonably calculate earnings than the methods which have sufficed for more stable companies. I popped over to *www.zdii.com* (the Ziff-Davis Interactive Investor site) by mistake, and while trying to find the note on that site, I typed "earnings" into the search engine. Wow! It came up with 15,231 earnings reports, but I don't know how far back they went. I checked April 16 and found that over 150 had come in between 7:00 AM and 10:41 AM!

By the way, I found an article in the New York Times on the Web, Technology Section, April 15: "First Call Uses New Method For 20 Internet Companies" which explains the problem and First Call's solution.

Miscellany

My oldest daughter sent me a URL she thought I'd like: *www.glue.umd.edu/~chaohwa/nycsubway/*, saying "I don't usually surf, but I came across something I thought you would like. Also check out the site by Amy Flynn (referenced in the above)." Well, she was right. It's a nifty site in praise of New York's subways. The site is by Chao-Hwa Chen, who grew up near a Bronx elevated line. It has lots of great train photos but some of the pages are available only in Chinese! Amy Flynn's site is more concerned with photos of stations and has a nice tour of parts of the system. Then she has a link to a WNEW (radio station) service for figuring out subway routes. It turns out that the form, when filled out, takes you to our old friend in France, *metro.jussieu.fr,* but it was down when I tried it.

There's an article in the New York Times, Week in Review, Sunday April 11: "Searching for the Essence of the World Wide Web." It's just full of nice, interesting numbers and futuristic ideas. One is the old "Six Degrees of Separation." The idea is that any two people on the earth can be connected by a chain of acquaintances containing less than six people. In the same way, the article claims that (almost) any two Web pages can be bridged by at most four mouse clicks.

When I was pushing my pet "Our Town" project, I tried to convince a mathematician who was involved with the Seton Hall Web site, that he might want to get one of his classes involved in the project, say with South Orange. He seemed reluctant, so I pointed out to him that there were mathematical issues involved, since Cyberspace imposed a new topology on the real world, so we had new measures of distance. The Times article makes the same argument: "Two points distant in physical space can be adjacent in cyberspace…But an E-mail message to a neighbor next door might be routed through a maze of links extending thousands of miles."

Some of the more interesting numbers: Alexa Internet, *www.alexa.com,* the folks responsible for the "What's Related" button in Netscape 4.5, have been doing some robot agent surveys. They estimate the size of the Web as of last summer at three terabytes (a million million bytes), the equivalent of about 5,000 CD-ROMs. Sun Microsystems' A7000 StorEdge Intelligent Storage Server, about the size of an old-fashioned minicomputer, could keep all that data in an array of fast hard drives. I guess the Library of Congress isn't completely digitized, since it's estimated to run

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New TCF, *continued from page 1*

I mean some of the best "price wars" in the business. Yeah, you'll probably find them there too.

The new TCF is still TCF, the first, the oldest, ***the best***!! Plan on spending the weekend. There are plenty of hotels in the area. It is much easier to find and is readily accessible from I-287 and the Turnpike. Although the festival is managed by Ken Gordon, we've told him how we want it done. It is still the same show put on by the Amateur Computer Group of NJ, The College of NJ, the Central Jersey Computer Club, the New York Amateur Computer Club and the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia.

We hope that due to the move, we don't lose any of the many "die hard" TCF friends we've made over the past twenty-three years. But, moving (into civilization) will give many others the opportunity to be part of the tradition. There are computer shows… and then there is the festival. ***The*** Computer Festival. Enjoy it. If there's only one thing you do before the dreaded Y2K strikes, make it a weekend at Trenton…no, Hamilton Township…ummmm, ahh…***Edison***. We're looking forward to seeing you there, and again in the year 2000 when we celebrate our silver anniversary. Just try to find anything else that old in the world of computers that's worth thinking about!

C-Net TV Schedule

Sci-Fi Channel	Saturday	Sunday
CNet Central	9:00 a.m.	12:00 n.
New Edge	9:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
The Web	10:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Cool Tech	10:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Same lineup on USA Sundays beginning at 6 a.m.		

For more information visit the C-Net Web Site (*www.cnet.com*)

On The Horizon: Microsoft's Troubles

by Ron Murawski (the_murs@pipeline.com)

At the beginning of the U.S. government antitrust hearings, Microsoft seemed impregnable. Its confident public relations releases pooh-poohed the Federal Department of Justice antitrust investigation as groundless and without merit.

Business leaders cited Microsoft's world-leading status and its stock market position as something the American government should not tinker with lightly. It was expected that, in court, incompetent government prosecutors would present weak arguments and make fools of themselves while Microsoft, with its endlessly deep pockets, would hire the best possible legal defense team and, OJ-like, would be found not guilty of any wrongdoing. (The current estimate of Microsoft's legal help is 120 internal lawyers and 55 outside lawyers.) Their worst-case scenario involved payment of a fine and a dire warning to not do anything wrong again.

Well, here we are months later, and with every passing day the situation seems more bleak for Microsoft. There is serious discussion of breaking up Microsoft into several companies. There is serious discussion of forcing Microsoft to publish Windows source code. There is serious discussion of forcing Microsoft executives to tell the truth.

Sticking to its stonewall defense of its operating system (OS) not being a monopoly and Internet Explorer being a necessary part of Windows, rather than a strategy to ruin Netscape, has caused the company grievous harm. In a Microsoft-produced courtroom video, Bill Gates was presented as not able to remember much. High-ranking Microsoft executives have portrayed themselves no better.

A video was presented in court "proving" the superiority of having Internet Explorer inside the OS. The trouble was the video misrepresented the speed of the modems used. The "IE inside" version used a faster modem and downloaded files faster than the slower "IE outside" version using the slower modem. Only when boxed into a corner will any ranking executive admit the truth. The situation conjures up visions of President Clinton denying truth and later trying to redefine what the "real" truth was. Microsoft now seems either clown-like or the embodiment of evil depending on an onlooker's point of view.

A recent discovery has surfaced revealing an "oversight" in the Microsoft Windows registration process. Even when users chose not to send information, that information was transferred anyway into Microsoft databases. Microsoft public relations releases portray the snafu as "inadvertent".

On the heels of this discovery came another: Windows 98 creates a unique machine ID number when it is installed. Microsoft Office software embeds this ID number into all saved files. The ID can be used to identify the creator of any Microsoft Office document, spreadsheet or database. The ID number is the very same one that was transmitted "inadvertently" to Microsoft. Microsoft executives still deny there was any master plan to collect information and track users. Microsoft is pleading guilty to being incompetent rather than admitting willful invasion of privacy.

What happened to the Microsoft of not so long ago? Its main quality was ruthless pursuit of all competitors and the brash confidence to coerce corporate partners into bad deals. Today's Microsoft must portray itself as bumbling, clueless and incompetent because of fear of possible government retribution for deceiving customers and corporate partners. After all, if Microsoft's acts were willful, almost any imposed penalty will seem just.

Now that Microsoft is in a defensive can't-win position, former partners are uniting with Microsoft's enemies and are kicking back. Support for the alternative operating system Linux is at an all-time high. Most major computer vendors are now willing to load Linux software on new machines. Some Linux users are demanding reimbursement of the cost of pre-installed Microsoft software. Microsoft is directing the Linux users back to the hardware vendors for any payments. Ironically, this may be good for Microsoft because it shows that there is an alternative to Windows. Microsoft hopes this will disprove Windows as a monopoly.

Microsoft is starting to fear that word: Monopoly. If Microsoft is ruled a monopoly, it will have to play by different rules. Government control would be mandatory. Sale and distribution of products would proceed under the watchful eye of the government. Pricing would be debated and set in Washington DC, not in Redmond, Washington. Deals with corporate partners would have to be made with full government disclosure.

A breakup of Microsoft, once feared by investors, is now viewed as an opportunity to realize even more Microsoft stockholder profit. On Wall Street, the dollar value of the sum of the parts of a company is always greater than the whole.

If a Windows operating system company is split out from Microsoft, no one will be able to claim Microsoft used "insider knowledge" writing application software such as an office suite. It is common knowledge that Microsoft products benchmark as faster than competitor's products. Was Windows tuned for Microsoft applications, or did the Microsoft application programmers walk down the hall and ask the OS guys advice on how best to implement features? Or does Microsoft have all the best computer programmers?

Microsoft's refusal to follow established standards is also eroding public confidence. Witness Microsoft actions since losing the Java lawsuit to Sun: It has been systematically removing all Java from its websites. There is growing suspicion Microsoft will discontinue its non-complying J++ Java language rather than bring it into court-ordered compliance.

Microsoft's biggest enemy right now is the open source movement. The open source movement's poster child is Linux along with the GNU utilities. This Unix-based OS is incredibly efficient compared to Windows. Unlike Windows, a 386 or 486 processor has ample horsepower to run all Linux software. All source code is publicly available and changes that improve the OS are actively sought. Linux is changing on a daily basis. The changes make Linux better and better. Scientific progress has always depended on the open

continued

Filling Out Forms With Word 97

by Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

I kept filling out the same forms again and again for health insurance and other applications. As my handwriting was getting progressively worse, I decided that it was time to simplify this process.

It would be nice, I thought, to have various forms stored in my computer and a filled-out form printed at the push of a button. It would also be nice if I could fill in only the few items which change from time to time but not to have to fill in again and again my name, address and social security number. I also wanted to be able to enter changing items on the computer, leaving just my signature to do by hand. If the tax programs can do it, why couldn't I?

Not being able to find the solution to my problem in the Word 97 Help file, nor in the two books I have on Word 97, I did a little experimenting and came up with a simple solution. All I needed was Word 97 and a page scanner. Here is my recipe:

- Take the form and fill in all boxes which do not change, such as your name, address, etc. Do it with a pen, a pencil or if you can find it in your attic, one of those heavy boxes, quite popular a few years ago, called a typewriter.
- Scan the partially filled in form. Before saving the picture as a TIF file crop the margins. If you don't then the final form will shrink because the form margins and the default margins in Word will add up.
- Open a new Word document and from the Insert menu select Picture, then From File (Alt+IPF). Select the saved TIF file depicting the form.
- From the Insert menu select Text Boxes (Alt+IX) and place them on the form where you want to be able to enter text which varies from one time to another, e.g., date, nature of illness, etc. To fit information into text boxes you may also want to change font size using the Format menu (Alt+OF).
- When finished, preview the form with the Page Preview (Alt+FV) and save as a Document Template. This will prevent you from overwriting the original form.
- In the future, when you need one of the forms just open it from the Template folder, then fill in the few required items by placing the cursor over the appropriate text box. Print the final form, sign it and send it on its way. If you would rather fax the form you can do it as well. If your signature is required you can enter it before scanning in Step 2, or you can insert it in the form into a Text Box as a scanned picture.

Of course there are other ways to accomplish the same thing — a high-end desktop publisher such as Adobe's PageMaker fills out forms with ease, while protecting the underlying form. Other applications aren't up to the task at all, as they won't let you place text on top of the graphic form. But since MS Word is already on my desktop, it's nice to know it has a trick or two up its sleeve!

Get More With E-mail Only

by Sol Libes (sol@libes.com)

E-mail is a great source of things that are often easier to access than via the World Wide Web. Users who do not have an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and use a free e-mail service (Juno, etc.) can still access databases, download software, much more. This works because there are many e-mail servers with auto-response capability — they automatically send back files in response to your e-mail. These files may be text, images, programs, etc.

Send e-mail to *email4u@wireworm.com*. Leave the subject and body of the message blank. If your software will not allow you to send a message with a blank subject, use a period. You will receive a message containing the text file *email4u.txt*. It contains a wealth of information on where to send e-mail to get information on lots of other e-mail things you can do.

For example, for information on using e-mail to create a web site with your own domain name and e-mail address, send a blank e-mail to *email-only@wireworm.com*. For fun stuff (games, etc.) send blank e-mail to *fun4u@wireworm.com*. To find where to retrieve free software send a blank e-mail to *getit4u@wireworm.com*. If you are looking for a free program to view or to convert strange graphic, animation, or sound file formats, send a blank e-mail message to *pix4u@wireworm.com*.

Wireworm is located in Germany. If you have Internet access you can go to their web site *http://www.wireworm.com* to learn more e-mail tricks and tips.

Trust the computer industry to shorten "Year 2000" to "Y2K". It was this kind of thinking that caused the problem in the first place.

Thanks to Ted Martin

Horizon, *continued*

dissemination of ideas and results. Each step forward is based on past research. Unrestricted use of research and ideas has always resulted in the best scientific progress. Microsoft will find it difficult to compete with the world wide web of programmers bent on improving the Linux OS.

Most users care nothing about which operating system they are running. As long as they can run their office suites and get on the Internet they are satisfied. Linux has a GUI system called X-Windows. There is a free office suite called Star Office available. There are now commercial products like Word Perfect for Linux available for 30-day trial downloads. All major database vendors (except Microsoft) have Linux versions for sale. For Internet access Netscape offers a free browser, newsgroup reader and email client. As more and more free and commercial software becomes available Linux can truly challenge Microsoft.

Things look bleak for Microsoft right now. Microsoft's best strategy at the moment is to settle the antitrust case as quickly as possible. Even an admission of guilt is better than a continuation of the public relations nightmare the case has become. Microsoft has to weigh winning the antitrust case against losing the confidence of the public.

Setting Up a Home Network

A Layman's Crash Course

by Scott Vincent

Part One: Basic LAN Setup

Since Microsoft's release of Windows for Workgroups (3.11), networking has become very simple and commonplace even for home computer users. Everything one needs to set up a network at home is built right into the operating system. It just has to be turned on and set up. With Win95/98 and its "plug & play" (PnP), setting up a network is simple.

What is a Network?

A simple "local area network" or LAN consists of two computers, each containing a network adapter board, a network-capable operating system like Win95/98 or NT and a "cross-over" cable to connect them. With the addition of a third machine, another component, the hub, must be added. A hub is a box with holes called RJ-45 jacks. They look like the jacks on a telephone (or the wall plate where the phone line connects) except that they are a bit wider and have eight conductors instead of four. The wires look just like the wires you buy at the phone accessory rack in places that sell phones. Telephone cables, however, are not usable for networking for a number of reasons, the primary one being they are not wired the same way internally at the end connectors.

Cards & Hubs

Hubs and network adapter boards can be purchased at places like CompUSA and are quite inexpensive. They can also be found at computer shows, where you can expect to pay even less. The price can be as little as $15 for a 16 bit (ISA slot) 10 Mbps card to over $100 for some 100 MBps PCI cards. Hubs start at about $35 at a show and go up in price according to the number of ports. I suggest that beginners look for cards with the Win95/98 "Plug & Play" (PnP) logo on the box. This will greatly simply the configuration process in a machine running Win 95/98. If you use Windows NT 4.0, although it is not a true PnP operating system, it does have a program called NTDETECT that will identify PnP network cards.

Installing the Network Card

Installation of the card will be the most involved part of the job. If you can use a screwdriver, you can install a network interface card or "NIC". Turn the machine off. Unplugging it is up to you, but leaving it plugged in supplies a great "earth ground" through the line cord to protect the sensitive components from static charge. Take the covers off of the machine. Place a hand on the chassis to ground yourself. Check to see what type of slots your system board has available and purchase the NIC that matches that slot type. Remove the screw holding the slot's metal plate on the back of the chassis. (or break it off and scrounge for a screw that fits if you have a "cheap chassis clone"). Insert the card into a matching slot. I suggest *not* the one at the extreme right or bottom (looking from the back of the machine) in order to make it easier to remove the network cable from the card jack when you want to (the "clip" like on a phone cable can be difficult to get to when the card is in that slot — you'll cuss every time you want to disconnect it. That's it, provided you are using a PnP card. Put the covers back on.

Okay, now the board has to be recognized by the system. With PnP, the additional hardware will be detected automatically and should configure itself as far as the interrupt and addresses are concerned. If you do have a problem, you will need to make changes to the interrupt setting because it may be conflicting with another device already in the machine. Doing that will require a bit more knowledge about the workings of a PC. When it is recognized, software will be loaded automatically if it can be found on your system. If the files can not be found, you will have to tell Windows where they are or put the Win 95/98 CD into the CR-ROM drive.

Configurating the NIC

This pertains to Windows 95/98 machines. If you are using NT, it will be a little different, but basically the same things must be done. I'll cover the NT install later. When the machine is finished booting up, click the START button. Click SETTINGS, CONTROL PANEL and then the NETWORK applet icon. It will open to the "configuration" panel. If good ol' PnP did what it should with a PnP NIC, you should find several lines in the window. These were installed by Windows 95/98 when it identified the "new hardware" during bootup. You may also find listed here an item called "Dial-up adapter" if you have Internet access through an ISP or you have AOL service. If these lines are there and Windows re-booted by itself after it found the new hardware, you are nearly done. If nothing is listed in the window, or there is just a line for "Dial-up Adapter", you have to load the software manually. This will be the case with a non-PnP NIC too. That's okay. We'll check to see what these things are all about anyway.

Assigning a Device Driver Manually

Click the ADD button on the NETWORK applet screen. Another window will open and will list "Client", "Adapter", "Protocol"; and "Services". These will be done one at a time. First, Adapter. Double click the adapter line and after a program runs to load the NIC database, a window will open. The panel on the left lists NIC manufacturers in alphabetical order. The panel on the right will list the models of NICs made by the manufacturer highlighted in the left panel. Scroll down to the manufacturer of your NIC and click the name. Choose the exact description of your card. This is critical because the wrong "device driver" will either not turn your board on at all or will not allow it to use all of its capabilities.

Assigning a Protocol

Click back to the "configuration" window and click ADD again. Now double click "Protocol". A protocol is like a language that *all* cards on the network will use to communicate. Like people, the cards can communicate only if they use the same language or "protocol". For a small home network, choose "Microsoft" then "NetBEUI". Later, you may want to choose "Microsoft" "TCP/IP" also from this window. If there

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was a "Dial-up Adapter" line in the configuration windows chances are "TCP/IP" was there too already.

Assigning a Client

Go back to the "configuration" window again and this time double click "client". This determines what login screen will come up when you sign on to your network. Click "Microsoft", then choose either of the listed Microsoft clients. The NetWare client is for logging on to a Novell NetWare network.

Assigning Services

One more time, return to the configuration page. The last choice is "Services". There are two things to set here. In Win95 they are separate and the choice to share files and share your printer (if you have one attached to your machine) can be set. In Windows 98 they are combined in the first choice. Simply put, the settings here determine if your machine will also act as a "server" besides its normal role of "client". That's it for the configuration part. The rest is easier.

Assign Machine & Workgroup Names

Go back to the screen with configuration and click the center tab "Identification". In order for a machine to be identified in a network, it has two identifying entities. The first is the "machine name". Type in a name for your machine in the machine name field that others on the network will know your machine by. The second is the workgroup or domain name that the machine is in. For a simple home network using Win 95/98, you would want to name a workgroup. You can leave the default "workgroup" there if you wish.

Access Type

Finally, click the "Access Control" tab. Here you will determine the type of security — really simple for Windows 95/98. You just click the top choice, "Share Level" because these operating systems do not really have any security. The type of network being set up here is what is known as a "peer-to-peer" network. This means that every machine can be used to view and access what other machines on the network "share", or access what is called a "resource". A machine can also share its own resources and act like a "server". This is fine for a small network at home. If, however, you expand your network, this particular arrangement has drawbacks. It's fine for right now. That is explained further below in "Different Types of Login". Close out the NETWORK applet and the machine will update the registry and will need to rebooted. It should do so by itself.

Connecting is a Snap

The rest depends on where and how far apart the machines are physically located. Connect one end of a cable into the "RJ-45" jack on the back of each machine. Connect the other into an available jack on the hub. *Do not* use a hub jack that is marked differently than the others. This is a "cross-over" jack. Basically, it is the same thing as the "cross-over" cable or a "null modem" cable. When networking two machines without a hub, a "cross-over" cable forces the "transmit" conductor on one machine to match up with the "receive" conductor on the other and vice versa. This cross-over is not needed when using a hub except when you are connect two hubs together to expand your network. In that case, *one* hub has a cable plug snapped into the specially marked RJ-45 jack to provide the forced connection described above between the two hubs. Doing so will allow all the machines on one hub to communicate with all of the machines plugged into the other hub. Use the crossover jack on only one hub. Some hubs may have a switch for this purpose. Again, switch only one. Otherwise you will crossover twice which would be like not having crossed over at all.

Different Types of Login

If all has been done correctly to this point, when you reboot the system, it will pause with the Microsoft Networking Login screen. For a workgroup, this is primarily a local login for the purpose of identifying one of perhaps several users of that machine who have their own profiles. In the case of a domain, it is truly a security check and the user's login ID and password are authenticated by either a Novell NetWare server or a Windows NT server.

How one accesses the various resources on the network is determined by the access type set in the Access tab in the NETWORK applet. In a workgroup where the security model "Share Level" type login is used, each individual resource has a password. If the person whose machine is sharing a resource has given you the password to that resource, you can access it. Each machine's resources that are shared are administered by the user of that machine. When you attempt to access a resource, a login dialog box will appear at that time. If you know the password, you can gain access the resource by simply typing it in.

For a domain, which is referred to as a "Client/Server" type network, a single login dialog box is presented when one first logs on to the network. This would occur if the "User Level" access type was selected in the NETWORK applet Access tab. At this time, the Primary Domain Controller or PDC will check the ID and password combination and verify that the combination is legitimate. If so, the user is "authenticated". The PDC, an NT server, (Novell servers can also authenticate users) contains a database of all of the users and what shares they can access and to what extent they can access them. All of the shares for the entire network are administered here as opposed to being administered on each machine. Obviously, on a larger network, this would be both the more secure and also the more easily managed arrangement.

Creating a Shared Resource

In order for users on the network to be able to access information or a printer on your machine, you must create a shared resource. Again, for a home network, we are talking about "peer-to-peer" with each machine managing its own networked resources. To create a share, open EXPLORER, scroll to the directory you wish to share, and right click on the highlighted directory. A menu window will open. Choose "Sharing". The share setup windows will appear. Click the "Shared" button. The share name field will light up containing the directory name as it appears in EXPLORER. You can leave it this way or rename it. It can be described in the next field. Finally, at the bottom you have a place to set the

continued

Home Network, *continued from page 7*

permissions for who can access the shared resource. Your share will appear under your machine's name in NETWORK NEIGHBORHOOD on the desktop.

Mapping To a Shared Resource

In order for you to access a share on another machine, you must do what is referred to as "mapping". This is done by clicking the NETWORK NEIGHBORHOOD icon on the desktop and seeing the other machines (and perhaps other workgroups and domains as well). Click on a listed machine and the resources available on that machine appear. If you right click on one of the available folders, a menu windows appears. Choose "Map a Drive" and the first available drive letter will appear in a field with the name of the share. More specifically, the Universal Naming Convention or UNC name under it. The UNC starts with two backslashes (\\), the name of the machine that the resource is physically located on, and another single backslash followed by the name of the shared resource. You can click the "Reconnect on Login" check box to make it a "permanent mapping" and click OK. That's all there is to it. That drive letter will now appear in MY COMPUTER and also in the directory tree in EXPLORER. When you click it, you will pull up a window with the directory and all of the files and sub-directories that the resource consists of. You can do with those files whatever the person who created the share has set your permissions for.

Congratulations

Welcome to networking. In no time you will become very comfortable in the Microsoft networking environment, finding another level of organization available to you. Multiple people are able to access and share information from one common source, or from each other. If you have an older machine that has been shut down because it wasn't fast enough, the addition of a NIC and a little time spent in the operating system can bring back that machine to a useful level again when attached to your network. When working on a network, the actual processing is done in your local machine. The data and programs can be in the other, slower machine and be available to anyone on the network. As a matter of fact, there are several ways that older, slower, even very slow machines can be useful on a LAN. They can be used as print servers and communication servers, where the speed is not as important as the presence of commonly accessible parallel and serial ports.

For a small home network, even fileservers can be on slow machines because, again, speed isn't the issue, but hard disk space is. There's probably good space on the drive in that old machine. Reformat it and BINGO, live backup space. Experiment. Have fun. Make use of the junk that you can't sell but hate to just give away (to someone who doesn't know better). I have several 386/33s on my network busy doing stuff. One happens to be a NetWare server. I rarely type directly to them (although I can),but rather I talk to them through mappings from my fast pentium machines. Remember, if you decide to use NT server for things like DHCP etc, a 486DX is the minimum. NT prefers lots of RAM, not necessarily a quick processor. But it also ***loves*** pentiums.

Tune in next month for Part 2: Adding the Goodies. . 💻

The President's Column

by Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

As this issue reaches you I hope that you are enjoying this year's Trenton Computer Festival.

This year begins a new era for TCF. Those of us involved in putting on the show feel that the change of venue and professional management will serve to keep TCF a healthy and meaningful show well into the next millennium.

Another indication of the renewed health of the festival is that the speaker program filled much earlier this year than in previous years. I hope those of you who attend the festival take advantage of the speaker program, which is one of the major differences between TCF and other consumer and hobbyist computer shows. One would be hard put to find a program of such breadth and concentrated expertise short of professional trade events costing many times the admission to the festival.

Another issue on which the officers and board want input from the membership is the renaming of ACGNJ. The idea of changing the name of or rebranding the organization is based on feedback that the current name projects an image that turns away prospective members. The current thought is that changing to a name beginning with "Affiliated", "Associated" or "Association of" will present the group with a more positive image while allowing us to continue to use existing marks and logos, preserving most of the group's current brand equity. Please, provide your officers input on this important decision.

Frank's continuing observation department: Intac continues to reshape Castle net's accounts and resources into their own mold. The cable modem was finally installed in my apartment in mid March, one month in, and yes it was worth the wait. Thank you Comcast. 💻

TCF Funds Scholarships

by Jo-Anne Head, Vice President, ACGNJ

Please be sure to come out and support the Trenton Computer Festival (TCF) on May 1-2, 1999.

TCF partially funds the Engineering Leadership Award, which is a scholarship given by the Department of Electrical Engineering at The College of New Jersey to students in their department. The funding comes from the proceeds of TCF ticket sales.

The winners of this scholarship receive an award from the Engineering Department that will supplement any scholarship provided by the State of NJ or The College of New Jersey to provide full tuition. Each student receiving a 4-year award, and his/her nominator, receives a notebook computer.

The following students received 4-year awards:

- Fall 1997 Christopher Bluesteen
- Fall 1998 Neil Aaronson

The following students received 1-year awards:

- Fall 1996 Stacie Block, Lisa Keat, David Maurer, Justin McCullough
- Fall 1997 Kyung Park, Kelli Sendel. 💻

Ken's Korner: Mouse or Trackball Acting Up?

It May Not Be Broken, Just Dirty

by Ken Fermoyle

Some months back I wrote two articles (Keep It Clean, Parts 1 & 2) about the importance of keeping your computer clean to keep it operating properly. They obviously struck a nerve because they have been among the most widely reprinted and requested Ken's Korner columns to date.

I just had an experience that underscored the cleanliness message, one that involved a vital part of any computer system: the mouse or other pointing device. Since those earlier articles didn't cover the care and cleaning of mice, I thought it would be good to share my experience with you.

(Actually, I use a Logitech TrackMan trackball, not a mouse, but the problem and cleaning procedure outlined below are similar for either type of pointing device.)

Over a period of several weeks I noticed the trackball was getting balkier, making it harder and harder to drag the cursor into position. Finally it got so bad I had to struggle to move the cursor at all. "Oh-oh," I said to myself, " I hope it's not time to buy a new trackball." The Logitech device was several years old and had been used a lot, so I thought it might well need replacement. Then I remembered the mantra that Dennis Orloff of the ComputerBath line of maintenance products (www.computerbath.com) chants at every opportunity: "It's not broken, it's dirty!

Since he's right about 70% of the time, I decided to check first to see whether the trackball was just dirty. When I took it apart I was amazed at how much dirt had accumulated inside the poor critter. It wasn't just dust or loose dirt, either. There was a buildup of grime and a sort of lint, especially around the small ball contacts or rollers inside the ball cage. It was obvious that the crud was keeping the trackball marble from making proper contact with the rollers. The result, difficulty in moving the cursor, would be the same for an equally dirty mouse.

I cleaned everything thoroughly, and presto — it was like I had a brand-new trackball! Here was more proof of the need for keeping things clean as part of computer maintenance.

The procedure was simple, took just about 10 or 15 minutes, and saved me some bucks. So it's worth your while to see if cleaning will fix a balky pointing device before you toss it out and buy a new one. What you really should do, in fact, is clean your mouse or trackball periodically, and not wait for it to get as dirty and hard to use as mine was.

Here's how you do it.

First, if you have a manual for your mouse or trackball, dig it out. (Note: You should always keep manuals and documents for ALL hardware and software.) Read it. It may show a diagram or cutaway, and possibly instructions, that will make the cleaning job easier for you. The only tool you may need is a small screwdriver, probably a phillips-head type. You will also need a clean, lint-free cloth, foam-tipped swabs (less apt to leave lint than cotton swabs, as I was reminded by reader Bob Clyne, Southeastern Michigan Computer Organization) and a mild soap solution. Small tweezers, isopropyl alcohol (99% pure, not rubbing alcohol which contains things like skin lubricants) and a toothpick may be useful, too . I find it convenient for jobs like this to keep screws and other small parts in an old ashtray, which also can serve as a tool rest.

Next, clean the mouse or trackball exterior and cord with a cloth moistened in a mild soap solution; wipe dry. Then turn the device upside down and remove mouse ball retainer plate or trackball bottom cover. Usually the retainer plate can simply be rotated and lifted out. Some older mice and most trackballs have screws holding the plate or bottom cover in place. Remove the ball carefully.

Clean ball with the moistened cloth, wipe with dry cloth and set it aside. (Make sure it is completely dry before reassembling.) I blew loose dirt out of the ball cage with a compressed air duster, held some distance away to lessen the impact. Be careful here so that you don't damage any components. In my case, I had to use a toothpick and tweezers to dislodge some of the matted lint around the contacts in the ball cage. A cotton swab lightly moistened with alcohol may also be helpful for cleaning rollers or contacts and the inside of the ball cage.

When cleaning mice, take a close look at the rollers inside. (Most have three, some just two.) You will probably see dark lines of dirt that have built up over time. Work a cotton swab moistened just slightly with rubbing alcohol along each roller, rubbing side to side until the line of dirt is gone.

Once everything is squeaky clean, place the ball back in the ball cage and replace the retainer plate or bottom cover. That's it; you're done, and your mouse or trackball should be as good as new.

Copyright 1998 by Ken Fermoyle, Fermoyle Publications.Ken Fermoyle has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy, PC World and Popular Science to MacWeek and Microtimes. He was cohost/producer of a radio show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Ken's Korner articles are available free to User Group newsletters and Websites. For permission to reprint this article or to receive the column monthly, contact: kfermoyle@earthlink.net.

The Latest Utility Trend: Servicing Your PC Online

Michael J. Miller, Editor-In-Chief, ***PC Magazine***

Of all the 15 categories of utilities we evaluated for PC Magazine's 1999 Utility Guide, the most interesting are the ones that take advantage of the Internet to help you keep your software (and your PC's subsystems) as up-to-date as possible.

Today, you can perform many chores online that once required dedicated software. PC Labs evaluated five such online support systems. Each has its own particular blend of services.

Symantec's Norton LiveUpdate Pro: If you've ever used a Symantec utility, then you're probably familiar with the LiveUpdate feature. The same technology is used in Norton LiveUpdate Pro, the central feature of Norton Web Services that offers program updates and even provides computing tips from right here at ZDNet.

Network Associates' Oil Change: This is one of the spoils of Network Associates' takeover of CyberMedia. Oil Change is a software update service, but in lieu of a browser-based interface, Oil Change provides its own application. It stumbled a few times in testing, offering to update with old versions of Netscape Navigator and AOL Instant Messenger and mistakenly identifying Adobe Acrobat 3.02 as Version 3.0 and offering to upgrade it to Version 3.01.

Trend Micro's HouseCall: This is a free service that scans your hard disk for viruses through a Web browser. It's not a replacement for a full antivirus package, but it works fine for quick checks.

Intel AnswerExpress Support Suite: Despite its name, this isn't really a suite but a combination of software, online services and telephone support. The initial fee ($49.95) covers three months of virus scanning, online backup (provided by Connected Online Backup) and telephone support that responds to email queries about more than 200 apps.

Network Associates' McAfee Clinic: This package includes virus scanning, hard disk cleanup, and disk optimization. The support section is an online library of information and links, but doesnÆt include email or telephone support.

All these online services offer some advantages over software, letting you keep programs, hardware drivers and virus definition files up to date, but remember to keep the disadvantages in mind. An online virus scanner, for instance, can't keep a constant vigil for invading viruses. It can only tell you if your system has already been infected. Online utilities services won't replace software, but they can be useful in a pinch. To find out more about online utilities and 14 other kinds of utilities as well, be sure to visit our Utility Guide.

http://www.pcmag.com/features/utilities99/index.html

Online Utility Reviews - PC Magazine

http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/feaures/utilities99/onlineut01.html

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Search for Extraterrestrials from the Comfort of Your Home

Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence" (SETI) is an affair on the fringes of official science, mainly practiced by devoted afficionados. It is in endeavor of collecting and processing immense amounts of data obtained mostly with radio telescopes. This data must be analyzed to isolate promising signal patterns form the background noise.

Computing demands exceed resources available to SETI researchers. Therefore, a novel approach will be implemented, involving distributed processing of chunks of data by individual purchase. this will not only accomplish the task of data analysis, but also break new ground in distributed computing.

SETI@home is a scientific experiment that will harness the power of hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers in the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. The participating volunteers will use a background program which will crunch allocated data while the PC is idling on standby. Anyone can participate by running a screensaver program that downloads and analyzes radio telescope data. There is the small but captivating possibility that your computer will detect the faint murmur of a civilization beyond Earth.

SETI@home was scheduled to start in April 1999. To join their mailing list or to obtain further information, go to:

http://setiathom.ssl.berkeley.edu/

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SIG News

Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Peter Fillingham (pete@panix.com)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.htm

This is a group for those who share an interest in the Linux operating system and its relatives (UN*X, BSD, Coherent, AIX …). Currently there is a strong interest in Linux as an alternative to other operating systems, especially since there is no charge for the system. It and its source code are freely distributable. Meetings the first Monday of the month.

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@injersey.com)

April: Bill Machrone, contributing editor of PC Magazine and PC Magazine Online and resident of Scotch Plains, was our guest speaker.

May: Manish Bhatt, from Microsoft will be our speaker. The subject is Microsoft Office 2000. We also thank Powerquest for their contribution of software which will be chanced off at this meeting.

VBA

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

VBA = Visual Basic for Applications

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access. In the future, Microsoft will implement VBA in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend. Meetings start at 7 P.M. on the fourth Monday of the month.

Random Access

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

Those of us who have been involved in computer user groups for a long time remember when the Random Access Session was the only source of information about your particular computer. Even though PCs and the software that runs on them are pretty much standardized now, users occasionally have problems or want more information.

Random Access is for ***everyone***. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Everyone usually benefits from the discussed topics regardless of their level of expertise. Many of the regulars can help solve your problem or at least get you started in the right direction.

This is an official "Newbies too" group.

C/C++ SIG

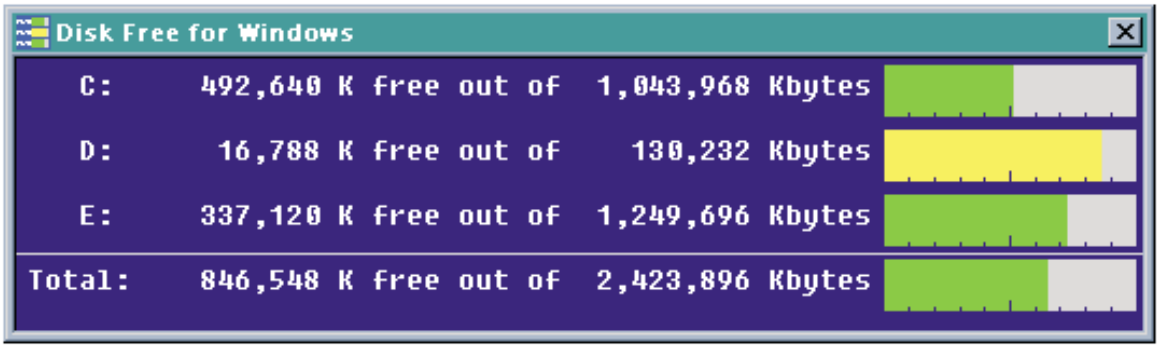
Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

http://www.blast.net/barnold/

The C/C++ User's Group is a forum for discussion of programming in general, and beginning and intermediate level C, C++, and C-Win programming. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way and discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems. We present complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. Each meeting is divided into three sections: Random Access (Q/A and discussion), discussion of standard library functions and other topics of narrow and simple scope such as Windows API functions, and the main presentation (normally a small program, 300-1000 lines, which actually performs some useful function). The program is discussed and demonstrated in terms of its philosophy, algorithm, flow, code, challenges, options, improvements, etc. This "case study" provides a forum for additional questions and audience participation. Source code is handed out and is also available for download from the ACGNJ FTP Server: *ftp://ftp.acgnj.org/pub/acgnj/cug/Csig9809.zip*.

For example, at our February meeting, two programs were presented: "Disk Free for Windows" ver. 1.20 (a Visual C++ program that displays a bar graph on the top of the screen showing space utilized on all disk drives) and "Find DLL" ver 1.00 (a command line program for Windows 95/98/NT, for troubleshooting your system). Both are enhanced versions of programs presented previously (NT support has been added to "Disk Free for Windows").

"Find DLL" helps diagnose problems with missing DLL files. The classic problem that occurs is that the user clicks on an icon and a message appears that says "missing DLL". It normally doesn't say which DLL, and there's no easy way to figure it out. "Find DLL" searches the executable for any filename with the extension DLL and checks to see if it exists on the computer.When the program finds a DLL, it lists the directory, the size and the date of the file. Occasionally the DLL appears in more than one directory, which can be a disaster if the program expects one version of a DLL and tries to use a different version. This utility program demonstrates the use of hard drive functions, in particular random access of the hard drive. It also includes functions that obtain the size and date of the various files.


Disk Free for Windows
C: 492,640 K free out of 1,043,968 Kbytes
D: 16,788 K free out of 130,232 Kbytes
E: 337,120 K free out of 1,249,696 Kbytes
Total: 846,548 K free out of 2,423,896 Kbytes

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

The Macintosh group meets at 7 P.M. on the fourth Friday of the month in Hill Center, Room 114, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. In June, November, and December, the meeting is pushed to the third Friday. Those who come straight from work meet in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 P.M. .

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda

(matthew.skoda@acgnj.org)

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or persons who are just interested in getting started. Watch the ACGNJ Web page for updates.

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

April 1*:* I missed sending e-mail for the meeting, but we had a good crowd anyway. The Web News part was brief, devoted to an explanation of the Melissa Virus, a few items from the last issue of *Internet Corner* and a few items from *Cybertimes,* the *New York Times* online column. I brought along the vanilla version of Microsoft's new Internet Explorer 5.0 — all 38½ megabytes. It took about 20 minutes to download from my Zip drive (before the crowd arrived). After random access and Web News, we did a live installation of IE5.0 and a brief demonstration of some features.

May 6: We'll do Web News and more on IE5.0, if anyone has questions. Alex suggested I look at *www.freeback.com.* We'll give a demo of this new service, FreeBack, which as the name implies, is a rent free place to store some of your valuables in Cyberspace. You don't get a lot of space — what can you expect for free? It could be very handy.

PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)

www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html

May 21: John deGood will talk about "Preparing for the year 2000." Things are changing rapidly as year-end approaches. Find out what's different — and protect yourself!

Will Y2K computer problems cause 2000 to begin with a whimper or a bang? We will review Y2K issues and remediation with emphasis on the personal computer. The potential implications of Y2K computer failures on society and some ways you are likely to be affected will be discussed. Come learn what you should (and should not!) do to prepare for January 1, 2000.

John DeGood is a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Sarnoff Corporation in Princeton where he develops embedded, network, and systems software. Prior to joining Sarnoff in 1995, John spent 19 years developing analytical instruments at Hewlett-Packard. John is Chair of the Princeton chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery and has been a computer hobbyist for more than 30 years.

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

Jim Cimino (cominoj@bright-ideas.com)

Our group is dedicated to advancing the knowledge of Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino throughout the Lotus Notes User/Developer community in the New Jersey area, although anyone is welcome to attend meetings. Members range from beginners to advanced administrators and developers. Meetings are at 7 P.M. on the third Tuesday (Random Access at 6:30) at Corporate Software, 100 Wood Ave South, Suite 410, Iselin NJ. For directions, future meetings, or questions, please call (732) 417-5778 ext. 5 (voice mail) or visit our home page at (*http://www.njlnug.org*).

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez

(cybertech72@bigfoot.com)

The MultiMedia and Mobile Computing Activity meets at 7 P.M. the same night as PC Users Group, and will introduce the topic being discussed at PCUG.

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

April 8, 1999. Aspirited and informative meeting. The discussion was about our investments — successes and failures. My impression that our members have much investing experience was again reinforced. We all learned better ways to make investing profits. Although I consider myself an experienced investor, I am continually amazed at the new (to me) approaches that members come up with. It was a very enjoyable session that was loaded with *very* useful information.

For you current and potential investors, I would like to extend an invitation to attend. Our organization looks forward to new members and ideas. The group includes newcomers to investing and computing and those who have 35 or more years of experience in both. We do not typically schedule any particular topic in advance, but try to react to market conditions and present ideas which are both current, and (hopefully) profitable. Our emphasis is on investing and using the computer to assist that investing. Reserve the second Thursday of the month to visit us. You can get more information at our web site *http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/*

Main Meeting

May 7, 1999: Heyward Ehrlich on the topic of his choice, probably something on the Internet

June 4, 1999: Linux — it's not just for breakfast any more, by Peter Fillingham. Corporate America has started to wake up and take notice of the Linux operating system.

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

For the May meeting we will be looking at some of the lesser-known genealogy programs available, including at least one specialty program for Jewish Genealogy.

Internet Corner, *continued from page 4*

to 20 terabytes of text alone. Then there's a group in San Francisco called the Internet Archive which is keeping legacy Web pages as a history project. They have over a billion pages amounting to more than 13 terabytes!

All this futurist talk reminds me of something. This is all a sort of fictional view of tomorrow's reality. There's also the science fiction side of this coin, the realistic view of tomorrow's fiction. Here we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of William Gibson's cyberpunk classic, *Neuromancer*. If you haven't read this, it's a must read! (From amazon.com at $5.59 + S&H.)

Science

(Mathematics Section.)

There's a fellow named Neil Sloane who used to be at Bell Labs and is now with AT&T Research. I knew him as the fellow who worked with Frances McWilliams on algebraic coding theory — you know, the stuff that gave us the CRC that makes reliable mass storage possible. Well there was a news item about his winning a nice fellowship, so I sent him a brief note of congratulations: "Congratulations on the fellowship. I still remember a slim little volume on numerical sequences. (I remember as a teenager going to a party in NYC where we were presented with: 14, 23, 34, 42, 50 ... stops on the 8th Ave. local.)" He replied: "Thanks very much for that message! That slim volume is now a major data base, by the way (*www.research.att.com/~njas/sequences/*), with thousands of hits a day." Check out that Web page — it's a search engine for numerical sequences. Try your most difficult on it! I reported on it at the last SIG meeting. And, yes, it did know about the subway stop sequence! Folks at the Labs don't do things half-way.

From Science Magazine's online *Netwatch*, April 16:

- Cool Images: Archaeology Down Under. Check out underwater archeology at *nautarch.tamu.edu/ina/vm.htm*
- Picturing inspiration. The U.S. Patent Office is making some progress in getting their archives online. They've just begun posting images (as TIFF files) for all U.S. patents since 1976. Check them out at *www.uspto.gov*.
- Polar meltdown. The antarctic ice shelves have been melting down. Move to higher ground and see the photos at *www-nsidc.colorado.edu/NSIDC*.
- Calling All Chemists. Elsevier Science, a premier publisher of scientific magazines, has started a free Web site for chemists. *www.chemweb.com*.
- The Ultimate Neutrino page. Interested in these ephemeral particles? Try *neutrino.pc.helsinki.fi/neutrino*, for the Suomi view.

From the Scientific American, May issue (April 12):

- How XML will fix the Web. Have you wondered what all the talk is about markup languages? Here's a great overview of everything from SGML to XML and what it all means for Web page design.
- Tsunamis! As if it wasn't enough that we'll be under water when the ice caps melt, we have to watch out for tidal waves! An impressive, hypertext-rich article on these scary rages of nature.
- Doctor/Editor George D. Lundberg. A very nice bio on this interesting ex-editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association who was fired last year in a controversial argument with the AMA board.

You can find all this at *www.sciam.com.*

Cyberlaw

There's a small bookstore somewhere in the Midwest that has been specializing in feminist issues since they started in business in 1970's. They have an appropriate name, "Amazon Book Store." You can guess the rest!

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	FOREIGN	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	$25	$10	$55	$20	$20
2 Years	$40				
3 Years	$55				$45

Mail this application and your check to:

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.0. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

❑ **Do not** list me in the Membership Directory. (Street addresses are not listed in the directory.)

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	**NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group:** Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	**New York Personal Computer Club:** For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	**Brookdale Computer Users Group**: 7 pm,3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	**Macintosh User Group**: Third Tuesday, Mallory Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 or (201) 659-1017.
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	**Hunterdon Computer Club:** 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	**PC Club of South Jersey**: 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel U., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	**Central Jersey Computer Club**: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	**NJ PC Users Group:** Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (973) 635-5393.	**Fairlawn Computer Club**: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (*fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com*)	**Princeton PC Users Group**: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, *http://www.ppcug-nj.org*
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

ACGNJ Hotline

(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

All numbers below will connect to the ACGNJ BBS. Call the **first** number in the list that is local to you.

(732) 247-2273 New Brunswick

(732) 297-2211 * Franklin Park

(732) 752-9285 Dunellen

* Local to Cranbury, Princeton and Plainsboro in 609 (use all ten digits).

Other Bulletin Boards

(215) 432-5699 Bill Earnest

(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

For a comprehensive listing of NJ bulletin boards, look for and download GSBBS???.ZIP (Garden State BBS List) on a system near you.

Radio and TV Programs

ACGNJ's Bill Farrell: METV 12 (Metuchen), Thurs. & Sat., 8:30 p.m.

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, Wednesday 8-9 p.m.

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

CNet, Schedule on page 4.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 227-7770.

Computer Talk, WPHT 1210 AM, Saturdays 11 a.m-1 p.m.

Free Help Line

Dell Computer: Sundays 1-4 P.M. (800) 677-0874. Call with your questions.

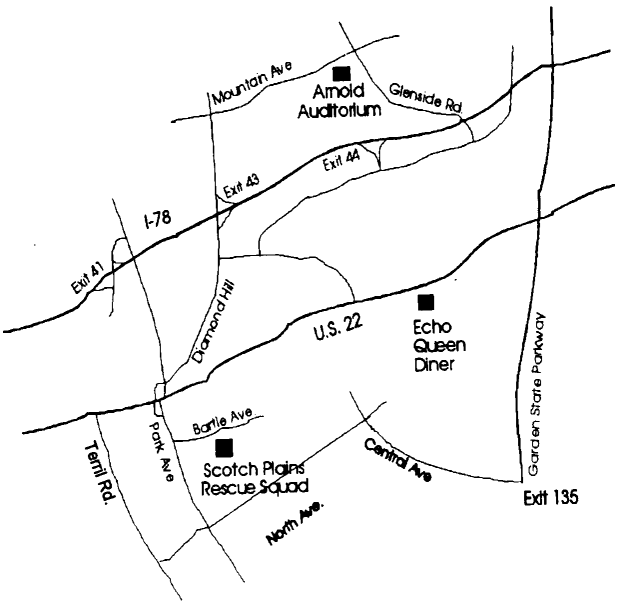
KGP Computer Shows

(More at *http://www.pcshow.com*)

May 1-2: TCF-99, 24th Annual Trenton Computer Festival,NJ Convention Center in Edison, NJ!

May 15: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ

May 22: William Paterson University Rec Center, Wayne, NJ



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take either Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp and follow circle under Parkway. Bear right onto Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light onto North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right onto Martine (which turns into Park Ave.). Right onto Bartle Avenue in middle of shopping district.The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit for Scotch Plains (Exit 41) and follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross over Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. The exit is after a McDonalds Restaurant on the right, diagonally opposite the Scotchwood Diner on the left, and immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use the overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building. We normally meet upstairs, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.

ACGNJ NEWS

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ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, including weather cancellations, call our Hotline (908) 322-4654 or visit the ACGNJ Web Page (*http://www.acgnj.org)*

Saturday & Sunday, May 1 & 2, 1999
TCF-99 at NJ Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison NJ. 10 A.M.to 5 P.M. Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sunday. Flea Market opens at 9 A.M. both days.

Monday, May 3
8 P.M. - Lunics (Linux/Unix). Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.

Tuesday, May 4
7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 5
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, May 6
8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Newsletter Deadline. See page 2 for instructions.

Friday, May 7
8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

Monday, May 10
8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, 908-359-8842.

Wednesday, May 12
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, May 13
8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 201-740-2489.

Friday, May 14
8 P.M. - Symposium. John Raff, 973-533-0664

Tuesday, May 18
7:30 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold, 908-735-7898.

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes. New meeting place. See SIG News. Call our voice mail line, 908-417-5778 ext 5, for last minute changes in plan/cancellations.

Wednesday, May 19
7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Friday, May 21
7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile Computing. Steve Rodriguez.

8 P.M. - PC Users. *http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html*. Jo-Anne Head, 908-769-7385.

Monday, May 24?
7 P.M. - VBA (Visual Basic, Excel). James Ditaranto, 973-772-7171.

Thursday, May 27
8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Friday, May 28
7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, at Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu), 732-821-4828.

8 P.M. - Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793.

Tuesday, June 1
7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Thursday, June 3
8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum,

Friday, June 4
8 P.M. - Main Meeting. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Monday, June 7
8 P.M. - Lunics (Linux/Unix). Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269.

Thursday, June 10
8 P.M. - Investing. Sheldon Koepf, 201-740-2489.

Friday, June 11
8 P.M. - Symposium. John Raff, 973-533-0664.

Tuesday, June 15
7:30 P.M. - C/C++ Users. Bruce Arnold, 908-735-7898

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes. See SIG News for location. Voicemail 908-417-5778 ext 5 for changes/cancellations.

Friday, June 18
7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile. Steve Rodriguez.

8 P.M. - PC Users, *http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html*. Jo-Anne Head, 908-769-7385.

Thursday, June 24
8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Friday, June 25
7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, at Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Keith Sproul (*ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu*), 732-821-4828

All club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J. Directions and map inside back cover.